GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1450
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE PROJECTS
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Approval has received any comments from various agencies regarding setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Board of Approval has received any complaint that fertile agricultural land is being acquired for setting up of SEZs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the comments of various agencies as well as complaints received have been examined by the Board; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): All such applications for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects which are duly recommended by the State Governments concerned are listed in the agenda for the meetings f the Board of Approval for SEZ and the agenda is circulated well in advance to all the Members of the Board. In the Board meeting, the comments and observations of all the members are considered and the decisions are taken with the consensus of all the members present.

(c) to (f): Land/land usage is a State subject and the approvals are granted to only those proposals which are duly recommended by the concerned State Governments. Taking into consideration the representations received from various quarters regarding acquisition of agricultural land, the State Governments were advised that in case of land acquisition for Special Economic Zones, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product Special Economic Zones, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. Further, considering public concerns on this issue, the Government has directed that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.